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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R.
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP

In the Claims

Please amend claims 7, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 16 to read as follows.

D1

7. (Twice amended) A compound according to Claim ~~16~~ 1 in which Ar^2 is a 1,4-phenylene group optionally substituted with one or two atoms or groups $-L^2(Alk)_tL^3(R^4)_u$.

D2

9. (Twice amended) A compound according to Claim 16 in which Ar^1 is a pyrimidinyl, pyridyl or phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more atoms or groups $-L^2(Alk)_tL^3(R^4)_u$.

10. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 9 in which Ar^1 is a pyridyl or phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more atoms or groups $-L^2(Alk)_tL^3(R^4)_u$.

D3

13. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 12 in which R^3 is a pyrrolidinyl or thiazolidinyl group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, C_{1-6}alkyl groups, haloC_{1-6}alkyl groups optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, hydroxyl groups, C_{1-6}alkoxy groups, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy groups, thiol groups, C_{1-6}alkylthio groups, aromatic groups, heteroaromatic groups, or $-(Alk^2)_vR^{10}$ groups, and each nitrogen atom of the pyrrolidinyl or thiazolidinyl group is optionally substituted with a group $-(L^5)_p(Alk^3)_qR^{12}$;

or R^3 is a phenyl, pyrimidinyl or 1,3,5-triazinyl group optionally substituted with one or more atoms or groups $-R^{13a}$ or $-Alk^4(R^{13a})_m$.

14. (Amended) A compound which is:

3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-({4-[2-hydroxyethylamino]-6-methoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl}amine)propanoic acid;

3-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]-3-{4-[(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-[(2,6-dimethoxybenzoyl)amino]propanoic acid;

3-({[(4S)-3-Acetyl-1,3-thiazolinan-4-yl]carbonyl}amino-3-{4-[(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-[({(2S)-1-[(3,5-dichlorophenyl)sulphonyl]tetrahydro-1-H-pyrrol-2-yl}carbonyl)amino]propanoic acid;

(2*RS*,3*RS*)-3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-{[((2S)-1-[(3,5-dichlorophenyl)sulphonyl]tetrahydro-1-H-pyrrol-2-yl)carbonyl]amino}-2-hydroxypropanoic acid;

3-{4-[(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)amino]phenyl}-3-[({2-[(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)thio]-3-pyridinyl}carbonyl)amino]propanoic acid;

and the salts, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

16. (Amended three times) A compound of formula (1):

$$Ar^1(Alk^a)_rL^1Ar^2CH(R^1)C(R^a)(R^{a'})R \qquad (1)$$

wherein

Ar^1 is an aromatic or C_{1-9} heteroaromatic group containing one to four heteroatoms seleted from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur, and is optionally substituted with one or more atoms or groups $-L^2(Alk)_tL^3(R^4)_u$;

L^2 and L^3, which may be the same or different, is each a covalent bond or a divalent linker atom or group selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-CON(R^8)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$, and $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$;

R^8 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6}alkyl group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, hydroxy groups, or C_{1-6}alkoxy groups;

t is zero or the integer 1;

u is an integer 1, 2 or 3;

Alk is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

R^4 is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, $-OR^5$, $-SR^5$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2R^5$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_3R^5$, $-SOR^5$, $-SO_2R^5$, $-OCO_2R^5$, $-CONR^5R^6$,

$-OCONR^5R^6$, $-CSNR^5R^6$, $-COR^5$, $-OCOR^5$, $-N(R^5)COR^6$, $-N(R^5)CSR^6$, $-SO_2N(R^5)(R^6)$, $-N(R^5)SO_2R^6$, $-N(R^5)CON(R^6)(R^7)$, $-N(R^5)CSN(R^6)(R^7)$, and $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^6)(R^7)$; and

R^5, R^6, and R^7, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched C_{1-6}alkyl group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, hydroxy groups, or C_{1-6}alkoxy groups;

provided that when t is zero and each of L^2 and L^3 is a covalent bond, then u is the integer 1 and R^4 is other than a hydrogen atom;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group selected from $-CON(R^2)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^2)-$, $-N(R^2)-$, and $-O-$;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group;

Ar^2 is a phenylene group optionally substituted with one or two atoms or groups $-L^2(Alk)_tL^3(R^4)_u$;

R^1 is a group selected from $-NHCOR^3$, $-NHSO_2R^3$, $-NHR^3$, $-NHC(O)OR^3$, $-NHCSR^3$, $-NHCON(R^3)(R^{3a})$, $-NHSO_2N(R^3)(R^{3a})$, and $-NHCSN(R^3)(R^{3a})$;

R^3 is an optionally substituted C_{3-10} cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{7-10} polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{3-10} heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $OC(O)-$, $-C(S)-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-C(O)NR^8-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$,

$-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$ and $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$; an optionally substituted C_{7-10} heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-C(O)NR^8-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$ and $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$; an optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C_{1-9} heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms seleted from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} heteroaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-C(O)NR^8-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$ and $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$, an optionally substituted C_{3-10} cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{7-10} polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{3-10} heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-C(O)NR^8-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$ and $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$; an optionally substituted C_{7-10} heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$,

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D

-N(R^8)-, -C(O)NR^8-, -OC(O)N(R^8)-, -CSN(R^8)-, -N(R^8)CO-, -N(R^8)C(O)O-, -N(R^8)CS-, -S(O)$_2$N(R^8)-, -N(R^8)S(O)$_2$-, -N(R^8)CON(R^8)-, -N(R^8)CSN(R^8)- and -N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-; an optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C_{1-9} heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms seleted from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

wherein the optional substituents for the aromatic groups and the heteroaromatic groups of R^3 and R^{3a} are selected from one or more atoms or groups R^{13} wherein R^{13} is -R^{13a} or -Alk^4(R^{13a})$_m$;

R^{13a} is a halogen atom, or an amino, substituted amino, nitro, cyano, amidino, hydroxyl, substituted hydroxyl, formyl, carboxyl, esterified carboxyl, thiol, substituted thiol, -COR^{14}; -CSR^{14}, -SO_3H, -SOR^{14}, -SO_2R^{14}, -SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NHR^{14}, -$SO_2N(R^{14})_2$, -$CONH_2$, -$CSNH_2$, -$CONHR^{14}$, -$CSNHR^{14}$, -$CON(R^{14})_2$, -$CSN(R^{14})_2$, -$N(R^{11})SO_2R^{14}$, -$N(SO_2R^{14})_2$, -$N(R^{11})SO_2NH_2$, -$N(R^{11})SO_2NHR^{14}$, -$N(R^{11})SO_2N(R^{14})_2$, -$N(R^{11})COR^{14}$, -$N(R^{11})CONH_2$, -$N(R^{11})CONHR^{14}$, -$N(R^{11})CON(R^{14})_2$, -$N(R^{11})CSNH_2$, -$N(R^{11})CSNHR^{14}$, -$N(R^{11})CSN(R^{14})_2$, -$N(R^{11})CSR^{14}$, -$N(R^{11})C(O)OR^{14}$, -SO_2NHet^1, -$CONHet^1$, -$CSNHet^1$, -$N(R^{11})SO_2NHet^1$, -$N(R^{11})CONHet^1$, -$N(R^{11})CSNHet^1$, -$SO_2N(R^{11})Het^2$, -Het^2, -$CON(R^{11})Het^2$, -$CSN(R^{11})Het^2$, -$N(R^{11})CON(R^{11})Het^2$, -$N(R^{11})CSN(R^{11})Het^2$, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R^{14} is an -Alk^4(R^{13a})$_m$, aryl or heteroaryl group;

$NHet^1$ is a C_{5-7}cyclicamino group optionally containing one or more -O- or -S- atoms or -N(R^{11})-, -C(O)- or -C(S)- groups and optionally substituted with one or more substituents as defined for the cycloaliphatic groups of R^3 and R^{3a};

Het^2 is a monocyclic C_{5-7}carbocyclic group optionally containing one or more -O- or -S- atoms or $-N(R^{11})-$, -C(O) or -C(S)- groups and optionally substituted with one or more substituents as defined for the cycloaliphatic groups of R^3 and R^{3a};

Alk^4 is a straight or branched C_{1-6}alkylene, C_{2-6}alkenylene or C_{2-6}alkynylene chain, optionally interrupted by one, two, or three -O- or -S- atoms or $-S(O)_n$ or $-N(R^{15})-$ groups;

R^{15} is a hydrogen atom or C_{1-6}alkyl group;

m is zero or an integer 1, 2 or 3;

n is an integer 1 or 2;

wherein the optional substituents for the aliphatic groups and the heteroaliphatic groups of R^{3a} are selected from halogen atoms, hydroxy groups, C_{1-6}alkoxy groups, thiol groups, C_{1-6}alkylthio groups, amino groups, and substituted amino groups;

wherein the optional substituents for the cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic and heteropolycycloaliphatic groups of R^3 and R^{3a} are selected from halogen atoms, C_{1-6}alkyl groups, haloC_{1-6}alkyl groups optionally substituted with hydroxyl groups, hydroxyl groups, C_{1-6}alkoxy groups, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy groups, thiol groups, C_{1-6}alkylthio groups, aromatic groups, heteroaromatic groups, and $-(Alk^2)_vR^{10}$ groups;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched C_{1-3} alkylene chain;

v is zero or an integer 1;

R^{10} is a -OH, -SH, $-N(R^{11})_2$, -CN, $-CO_2R^{11}$, $-NO_2$, $-CON(R^{11})_2$, $-CSN(R^{11})_2$, $-OC(O)N(R^{11})_2$, -C(O)H, $-COR^{11}$,$-OCO_2R^{11}$, $-OC(O)R^{11}$, $-C(S)R^{11}$, $-CSN(R^{11})_2$, $-N(R^{11})COR^{11}$,

$-N(R^{11})CSR^{11}$, $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-SO_3R^{11}$, $-SO_2N(R^{11})_2$, $-N(R^{11})SO_2R^{11}$, $-N(R^{11})CON(R^{11})_2$, $-N(R^{11})CSN(R^{11})_2$, or $-N(R^{11})SO_2N(R^{11})_2$ group; and

R^{11} is an atom or group as defined for R^8 or an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic or hetercycloaliphatic group as defined for R^3;

and when R^3 is a heterocycloaliphatic group containing one or more nitrogen atoms each nitrogen atom is optionally substituted with a group $-(L^5)_p(Alk^3)_qR^{12}$;

L^5 is -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-CON(R^{11})-$, $-CSN(R^{11})-$, $-SON(R^{11})-$ or $-SO_2N(R^{11})-$;

p is zero or an integer 1;

Alk^3 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

q is zero or an integer 1;

R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

R^a and $R^{a'}$, which may be the same or different, are each independently selected from a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkylthio or $-(Alk^b)_mR^b$ group (in which Alk^b is a C_{1-3} alkylene chain, m is zero or the integer 1, and R^b is -OH, -SH, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2R^c$ (where R^c is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group), $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^c$, $-SO_2R^c$, $-SO_3R^c$, $-OCO_2R^c$, -C(O)H, $-C(O)R^c$, $-OC(O)R^c$, $-C(S)R^c$, $-NR^dR^e$ (where R^d and R^e, which may

be the same or different, are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group), $-CON(R^d)(R^e)$, $-OC(O)N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)C(O)R^e$, $-CSN(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)C(S)R^e$, $-S(O)_2N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)SO_2R^e$, $-N(R^d)CON(R^e)(R^f)$ (where R^f is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group), $-N(R^d)C(S)N(R^e)(R^f)$ or $-N(R^d)SO_2N(R^e)(R^f)$ group);

Alk^a is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic or C_{1-6} heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-C(O)NR^8-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$, and $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$;

wherein the optional substituents for the aliphatic and heteroaliphatic groups of Alk^a are selected from halogen atoms, hydroxy groups, C_{1-6}alkoxy groups, thiol groups, C_{1-6}alkylthio groups, amino groups, and substituted amino groups;

r is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid (CO_2H), a carboxylic ester group, or carboxylic amide group;

and the salts, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

17. (Twice amended) A method for the treatment of a mammal suffering from inflammatory arthritis, multiple sclerosis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses, asthma or